

math

NEWS

Volume 101, Issue 2

Friday, June 2nd, 2006



**Slashdot Says: Techie Fight Clubs Springing Up
We Say: We're Not Allowed To Talk About It**



lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

June 2	Issue #2 takes the field
June 12	Production Night #3 6:30PM, MathSoc (MC3038) All welcome!
June 16	Issue #3 heats hallways

Math Faculty

June 12	Fall enrollment appointments begin
June 16	Last day for 50% tuition refund
June 23	Drop, penalty 1 (WD) period ends
July 3	University holiday
July 25	Lectures end

MathSoc

June	C&D BBQs, T/Th
Thursdays	Movie Nights

CECS

May 25	Interviews begin
June 9	First ranking cycle

Student Awards & Financial Aid

June 11	OSAP appeals deadline
June 15	Recommended submission date for Fall OSAP applications
June 15	Bursary application deadline
July 12	Confirmation of Enrollment deadline

Misc

July 1	Canada Day
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New York (CNN). At John F. Kennedy International Airport today, a Caucasian male (later discovered to be a high school mathematics teacher) was arrested trying to board a flight while in possession of a compass, a protractor and a graphical calculator.

According to law enforcement officials, he is believed to have ties to the Al-Gebra network. He will be charged with carrying weapons of math instruction.

<http://www.math.ualberta.ca/~runde/jokes.html>

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The editor(s): Chris (and not Emerald this time, because she abandoned me) (and yet, somehow, she still ended up doing all the post production work; odd, that)

mastHEAD

Your ad not here. Ever.

You now hold *mathNEWS* issue 2 in your hands. Be thankful, for it almost did not come to be. Due to a Toronto Transit Commission strike, *mathNEWS* was down an editor this week, and wouldn't you know it, it was the one editor that does all the real work around here. Amazingly enough, the one remaining editor managed to NOT sink the ship, while it was burning, and have it continue to burn while it was underwater. That just raises further questions.

We had plenty of writers this week though, and we asked them: what did you learn at this week's production night? π (I'm the juggernaut, bitch); Angelo (That deaf people are lucky); lost-luck (Can I learn on coop?); RainWater (How to unhook a bra with one hand); DanS (Nothing is too crude at *mathNEWS*); Math.random() (The internet is for porn); Half-pint (Multiple-choice self-tests are counterproductive if you have the wrong answer key); DutchSheep (Boobs!).

SheepNinEd (How RainWater unhooks a bra with one hand)

StatsEd (... that I should probably be afraid of what the staff and my fellow editor are capable of accomplishing in my absence)

***mathNEWS* Being Outsourced**

Hello friends! I am Jafar Mahranmanahramanii. I am going to be the new editor of *mathNEWS*. I will be running the newspaper from my office in Afghanistan. You see, the editorial staff decided that *mathNEWS* jumped the shark last term with the mathLEANS issue.

Make sure you read next issue, when I take control, and we have a Bollywood themed issue.

Jafar

***mathNEWS* Writers Revolt**

The *mathNEWS* staff is up in arms over the recent outsourcing of production to Afghanistan. The current editorial staff are trying to cut costs. They claim we make insane demands for pizza each week. All we are asking for is a fair wage for our time.

Help fight this injustice. Send an e-mail to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca expressing your outrage with this outsourcing. Help keep Canadian jobs in Canada.

the staff

Larry Smith Talk Online

World renowned economics professor and expert systems' specialist Larry Smith explores discovering and taking advantage of opportunities in emerging markets in Computer Science. The talk can be downloaded online at <http://csclub.uwaterloo.ca/media/>.

VPAS says...

I guess I have better grammar than some other exec

Writing at the beginning of the week when y'all will be reading at the end of it makes it difficult to avoid obscure, outdated information and predict what will be relevant then. Now. Whenever.

Last week (May 24) we had our Cove night for the term. We saw a good turnout of almost 200 students from Math and other faculties.

Our next big social event will be a **Dooly's pool night** (that's billiards, not chlorinated water) with free tables on Tuesday, June 6 from 7pm - 9pm. The pool hall is at 35 University Ave, near King and Weber. Snacks will be bought for attendees. If you would like to participate, please add your name to the sign-up list in the MathSoc office, MC 3038.

In other VPAS news, the office still needs more volunteers signed up for office hours to help keep it open. Please sign up on the door of MC 3038 and email office@mathsoc to get trained.

Don't forget that **movie nights this term are FREE!** That's two free movies Thursday nights, usually starting at 6 and 7:50. Check out the movies board across from the middle stairwell on the third floor and/or on the MathSoc whiteboard.

Speaking of the whiteboard, don't forget to email VPAS@mathsoc if you would like your events listed. Keep an eye out there for more social events, important dates for students, and MathSoc meetings.

I guess that's all for this week. On some personal notes, taking a blocked course seemed like a good idea until I realized that the final lands in the same week as at least 3 midterms. Also, check out the definition of the "week" for my other exciting news.

Kaitlyn "still alive" Holman
VPAS S06

Office Update

It has been a good two weeks in the MathSoc office. The photocopies are flowing and staples are stapling. We appreciate all those of you who have signed up for office hours. There are still times available, and for those of you who have already signed up please make sure to come to your hour.

We still have lots of great novelties, and new ones are coming in soon. Come stop by and see what great services we have to offer.

Heather Perry (One of the Office Managers)

Novelties are on the way

Greetings people who are so bored that their attention is brought to the MathSoc announcements. This is your novelties director. Not your personal one, but the one that got suckered in to doing this for the MathSoc. Now for the pertinent information: MathSoc is proud to announce that we will be getting some more of the old, and wanted novelties. Namely, the shotglasses will be making an appearance when the order comes back in. I will keep you posted via *mathNEWS*. Also, there just may be a new novelty shirt a-coming. Probably.

Michael Finistauri

CL101: The Idiot-Proof Guide to Cross-Listed Courses

Cross-listed with ARTS754

Eventually, we all have to take a course or two that has more than one course code. Now don't fret, this article was written to help prevent those confusion-induced seizures that tend to result from having to enroll in these abominations of nature.

First, we must understand our enemy. Courses are cross-listed across departments usually because there just aren't enough courses to go around for each program. Computational Math is a perfect example. As the bastard-child of AMATH & CS, it seems only appropriate to offer CM courses to as many AMATH-ies and CS-ers as possible, thus giving ALL students the illusion of diversity within their programs. Sure, it probably looks like they cross-list courses when there's sufficient overlap between the studies of two departments, but don't be fooled by this obvious ploy.

Now let's take a look at a scenario where cross-listing does its most damage:(names changed to protect identities)

Dennis: Hey man, Weren't you in AM341 last term?

Steve: Huh? I'm not in AM, get away from me.

Dennis: Err, I mean CS271.

Steve: What? There is no CS271... and I'm not in CS... *awkward pause*

Dennis: Sorry, Sorry, I meant CS371, it's cross-listed with CM271. I was confused

Steve: Ok, whatever dude, I gotta go.

If only cross-listed courses didn't exist, this awkward social situation may never have happened, and maybe Steve wouldn't have been creeped out by Dennis. Unfortunately, cross-listing is common-place and we need to learn how to remedy this problem.

The solution: Know when your courses are cross-listed, and whenever you make mention of your courses, mention every course code it HAS! No matter how redundant it feels and how ridiculous you feel. Let's try our scenario again:

Dennis: Hey man, Weren't you in AM351, slash CS371, slash CM271 last term?

Steve: Ohhh yeah, That course was terrible. Well, I gotta get going. I'll see you around.

So you see, it's JUST THAT EASY folks.

So there you have it, cross-listed courses are an enemy that can be beat with two simple steps: 1. Know thine enemy. 2. Refer to thine enemy repeatedly and awkwardly with every redundant name it has!

D1ZzL3.OWNSZ

Awkward Cell Phone Ring Tones

1. TTC subway door closing chime
2. Barnyard animals
3. Porno sound track
4. Actual porn
5. Any recording from a *mathNEWS* production night

Banned *mathNEWS* Articles

Last week, one of our articles got banninated. Can you guess which one we really wrote and which ones we generated only to sound offensive?

- What's in the Dean's pants - an expose
- C&D introduces Soylent Pink sandwiches
- Banned FEDS clubs
- Vaginas!!
- CECS busted as a front for human trafficking
- STIs — What's in this season
- Secrets of Scunt
- Beyond parking tickets — more degrading “co-op” jobs for Arts students
- UW Police bust SoftEng game of “Hide the Sausage”

Remember, even if it seems slightly shocking, we can always write a more-offensive article.

Half-pint

The Roommate Checklist

Just check to see if your roommate comes from hell

So, you've probably decided to move in with your best friend (or random people). Now the real question is, does your roommate actual originate from hell? Look at the following bits and make the decision for yourself.

- After your roommate showers, does he, she or it leave a trail of filth at the bottom of the tub and refuse to clean it up?
- Do you never have to worry about losing your property in the rez because you already know that your roommate claimed it for their own?
- Does your roommate, in an act of charity, let you clean their dishes?
- Does your roommate constantly tell you about the sex they just had regardless of how noticeably hideous they are?
- When your roommate complains about people, do you notice that they are describing their own traits?
- Does your roommate hold you accountable for the stupid stuff that they do?
- Does your roommate preach their religion, belief system, personal philosophy or whatever to your face despite their knack for disregarding the practical application for them?
- Does your roommate feel that 2 a.m. is the most appropriate time to blast music while singing as far off key as humanly possible?
- Does the birthday card you plan to get your roommate look suspiciously like a restraining order?

So is your roommate from hell? You decide. Because you have the power.

Angelo

The Bitter Truth

Dear Bitter Truth, I was hanging out with some of my friends when some of them took out some weed and offered it to me. Now, I'm a Catholic and I have a strong set of morals so when it comes to things like this, I don't want to do it. I didn't use the pot, but I feel like I let my friends down. I don't want to disappoint them.

Sincerely, Concerned

Well, Concerned, you're a fucking idiot. First of all, your religion has very little relevance over whether or not you smoke marijuana so stating that you are Catholic doesn't help your cause any. Look at it this way: “I'm a good person, I go to church”, “I'm a postal worker, I fire guns into public”. Both are facts, and both of them have little reflections on the other. The same is with your argument about smoking up and being Catholic.

The next thing I would like to point out, and most of the readers won't get the joy of trying to decode your half-assed and poor excuse for a letter. Learn how to fucking spell, you don't need to worry about weed rotting your brain. That's for damned sure.

Lastly, now you don't want to disappoint your friends? So if a group of friends had a Baltic hooker and wanted you to have your way with her, would you feel bad about not doing it? If you don't want to do something, don't do it. Don't try and make it seem like it's your friends' responsibility because they do it. They smoke, and either you choose to or you choose not to. Again, two unrelated things that you are grouping together. I hope you are happy: people like you are the reason “WARNING: HOT” appears on coffee cups. Dumb ass.

The Bitter Truth

Warm Weather Coping Strategies

Arriving just after the 2-4 weekend comes the warm weather we wish could've started a week earlier. And more recently the smog has descended. To help you to survive this Spring term, you might wish to consider a few suggestions:

- Egg fountain or the E2 fountain — Great to splash in or good for wading. Just don't drink it (geese use it, too)
- MC washrooms — handy for cheap showers (free soap is provided)
- Comfy — free accommodation (though we're aware you knew that already)
- MC — air-conditioned as always
- The tunnels — nice and cool because they're underground
- *mathNEWS* — every other Monday, come and write — we clear labs and eat pizza!
- The Cove — despite what they say, you can live behind the CSS computers
- Laurel Creek — if you get desperate
- *Avoid* the changerooms of the opposite sex — too hot.

aLemma

Boobs!!

A user's guide to breasts

Breasts can be a touchy subject. But we fear there are too many guys (and possibly girls) out there touching them incorrectly. Here are some useful tips on how to get the most out of you and your partner's breast touching experience.

1. We'll start with the bra. We know that sometimes removing it can be a daunting task. Asking the girl to remove her bra after an unsuccessful attempt is a better idea than fumbling around for 5 minutes and ruining the mood. We suggest practice! Borrow the bra of your sister, a close female friend or your mom (preferably not while they are wearing it).
2. Don't steal ideas from porn. Those girls are paid to pretend they enjoy it. Go off of what your girl seems to like, not what some porn star did. If her face looks like she's in pain she probably is.
3. A gentle, full handed caress is usually a better way to start than a violent squeeze. Some girls may enjoy a rougher touch but starting off soft and working up slowly you can judge what she enjoys.
4. Nipples are not the only part of the breast that deserve attention. Touching of the nipples should be integrated into a whole breast stimulation plan.
5. Your hands are not the only body part that can pleasure a woman's breasts. Your tongue is an awesome choice as it is a gentle and well lubricated appendage. If your woman prefers it a little rougher gentle biting can be incorporated. Find out what she likes and keep it up.

In summary, take queues from your woman friend. If she says no or looks like she's in pain then back off. Most importantly, don't grab without permission. Happy fondling. ;)

Rainwater and Math.random()

Man Attacked By Geese

Yes, They Are Dangerous

Tim (his name has been changed to protect his identity) was just walking down a path around ring road, when out of no where he was surrounded. Not by a gang of unwheely teenagers.. but of gaggle of geese. He had accidentally walked into an area with a large concentration of nesting geese. The geese made the first move. They tried their first tactic, hissing. When Tim tried to extracate himself from the gang of geese they attacked. Observers say the scene was horrific. Once the feathers cleared, Tim was nothing but a bloody heap.

Sure the Leafs Suck, But...

As Edmonton is beginning their run at the Stanley cup, hockey fans across the country are joining the Oilers bandwagon as the teams that they were cheering for either didn't even make the playoffs or lost a lot earlier than they were expected to, or were Montreal. For the Leafs fans out there, they're still getting huge amounts of flak from other local hockey fans: those cheering for the Ottawa Senators. However, if you find yourself in such a position I suggest you consider these points. Ever since the Ottawa Senators in their current incarnation in 1992:

- The Montreal Canadians have won the Stanley Cup ('93)
- The Vancouver Canucks appeared in the finals ('94)
- The Calgary Flames appeared in the finals ('04)
- The Edmonton Oilers are making an appearance this year ('06)
- Although the Senators appeared in the conference finals in '03, the Leafs were in the conference finals in '93 AND in '02.
- Every playoff series they have ever played against each other the Leafs have beat Ottawa

So, in conclusion, even as a Leafs fan I am willing to admit the Leafs have not performed as I would have liked. But the fact is, in all the time that The Ottawa Senators have existed **the only Canadian hockey team to consistently be worse than Toronto is Ottawa***

DanS

*it could be argued that Winnipeg and Quebec did do worse, but then again, Even though they don't exist anymore, Quebec still has done better than both Toronto and Ottawa combined.

Drunk Driving Isn't that Bad

Now Gophers, Those are Deadly

Most of you are probably tired from MADD sending those BS ad campaigns warning you about the dangers of consuming a controlled substance and then driving an automobile while under the influence of it. For those of you how don't know, MADD stands for Mothers Against Drunk Driving. What, so your mom gets pissed if you drive while drunk, but you're dad's okay with it? That's so sexist.

Back to the point, you may think that drunk driving is dangerous, but people aren't really paying attention to what's really hazardous to people: gophers. At one point one gopher accidentally walked across the street while someone was riding on their bike and they had to move out of the way. Also, did you know that gophers are self-contained organisms? That means that they don't need to be linked to the ones that spawned them. We can't control them. Fear the gopher over an intoxicated guy behind a 100-300 tons of steel with glass!

Angelo

profQUOTES

What I'm doing here is foolishness, but it proves the theorem so it's *cool* foolishness.

McKinnon, PMATH 345

Don't sweat this. It's not deep stuff, it's cleverness. I wish I could call it my cleverness, but I can't.

McKinnon, PMATH 345

We're not that weird yet.

McKinnon, PMATH 345

You learned in elementary school how to add fractions, and because you're here, you understood it.

McKinnon, PMATH 345

I'm not the most well-travelled mathematician but, you know... I've been around.

McKinnon, PMATH 345

We're just that cool.

McKinnon, PMATH 345

If I use enough three letter acronyms, or TLAs, I can pretend it's a CS class and charge more money.

McKinnon, PMATH 345

[After a lecture and a half and several pages] I hope at least two of you enjoyed that proof.

New, PMATH 340

Does 17 divide 255? ... probably.

New, PMATH 340

Student: Can I ask where we used this part of the hypothesis?

Prof: Yes... yes you may.

[Long pause]

Student: ... will you answer?

Verstraete, CO 342

Say we model this with a bipartite graph, with vertices on the top for men and vertices on the bottom for women... or, the other way around if you find that offensive.

Verstraete, CO 342

To show that two functions are mutually inverse, it suffices to show that they are mutually inverse.

McKinnon, PMATH 345

What I'm doing now is foolishness, but it's cool foolishness.

McKinnon, PMATH 345

This country has laws, and Texas does not.

Smith, ECON 102

In Canada you can't do anything with enthusiasm; it scares you.

Smith, ECON 102

The People's Republic of China has decided to have a market economy, and to minimize the number of people it shoots.

Smith, ECON 102

Having sex with idiots is a bad plan.

Smith, ECON 102

It's not "algebra," it's "jiggery-pokery."

Smith, ECON 102

[Realizes he just wrote the wrong theorem] I'm just full of shit.

Hoffman, MATH 136

[Looks at the integration equation on board] You can just eyeball the equation...It's eyeballable.

Chau, MATH 138

Prof: So, what do women want?

Male student: Uhm, that is a good question.

Wang, BUS362

When you're blaming everyone in the world, sometimes you'll get it right.

Smith, ECON 102

If there ever was a penis on wheels, it's the Hummer.

Wood, MUSIC 140

Nothing wrong with a little recreational pharmaceuticals in the name of academics. I didn't say that.

Wood, MUSIC 140

Bebop is an acquired taste. My wife, for example, refers to it as "diarrhea music."

Wood, MUSIC 140

It would've been so much easier if Euler had made $\Gamma(n) = n!$ instead of $(n-1)!$. Why, Euler? Why?!

Siegel, AMATH351

*Has your prof said something quotable? Type it up and send it to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca, or write it down and drop it in the **BLACK BOX** (located on the MC 3rd floor, between the Comfy and the C&D).*

Operations Research Contest!

Model and solve a real world business optimization problem!

The prizes for the contest are as follows:

First place: \$1000

Second place: \$200

Third place: \$50

To participate, your group must register by June 15th, and submissions are due June 30th. For more information, visit www.math.uwaterloo.ca/CandO_Dept/ORcontest/ORcontest_home.shtml